Governments is decided by the concerned State Government as a part of its overall educational planning and as per local needs and availability of rseources with the State Governments.

Delay in Award Degrees in JNU

601. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'Pioneer' dated 29th March. 1993 regarding lack of coordination between the departments and the evaluation branch of Jawaharlal Nehru University resulting in inordinate delays in viva tests for awarding M. Phil or Ph.D. degrees; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps being taken to remove the lacunae in the procedure to cut the delays?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by Jawaharlal Nehru University, the press report suffers from factual inaccuracies. The bulk of M.Phil/Ph.D. results are announced within reasonable time of receipt of dissertation/thesis. Delays may occur in some cases where examiners holding eminent positions are not able to evaluate reports within the prescribed time and are unable to make themselves available for viva-voce because of their pre-occupations. However, every care is taken to see that the results are announced well in time to avoid hardship to the students.

Uniformty in history text books

602. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many states there is a need to make changes in the history text books; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to bring about uniformity in history text books throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal with the Government to bring about uniformity in history textbooks at the school level throughout the country. The National Curricular Framework for Elementary and Secondary Education brought out in 1988 and the revised school syllabi/textbooks of the NCERT brought out after adoption of National Policy on Education, 1986 were widely circulated amongst the States for adoption/adaptation in matters of refusion and updating of school syallbi asd textbooks of all subjects including history. The aim was to effect a common pattern of school syllabi and textbooks in the country.

The National Steering Committee on textbooks evaluation set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in June, 1991 to review the school textbooks from the standpoint of national integration has felt the need for improvement in a few school textbooks of history being used in some parts of the country. The Committee advises the State Governments to improve the content of school textbooks of history, languages and social sciences.

In regard to Higher Education, there is no Centralised System of production of textbooks. Each University is

academically autonomous and prescribes its own courses of study. However, the UGC has issued guidelines for restructuring of courses at the first degree level which inter-alia provide for foundation courses. The foundation courses, amongst others cover study of the history of freedom movement in India, including national integration, social and cultural history of India etc.

Nutrition and Child Development

603. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the Nutrition Foundation of India has suggested to create a central nodal agency under the charge of the Prime Minister for nutrition and child development; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government to this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes Sir. The President of the Nutrition Foundation of India has suggested the creation of a central nodal agency under the charge of the Prime Minister for Nutrition and Child Development in his 9th John Barnabas Memorial Lecture entitled "Child Care in India: Emerging Challenges" organised by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development in Delhi on 29.3.93.

(b) A National Children's Board already exists with Prime Minister as President and is a National Forum for planning, reviewing and coordinating various services for meeting the needs of the children.

Identification of Sports talents in schools

604. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to locate and identify talent in schools for training for various Olympic Sports events; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Government, through the Schemes of Sports Authority of India e.g. National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), Sports Project Development Area Scheme (SPDA) and Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC), scout and nurture talent available in schools sector in the following Olympics disciplines:—

Archery, Athletics Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis and Wrestling.

(b) The details are given below:—

National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC): This scheme is meant to scout and nurture school children in the age group of 8 to 12 years. The selected children are admitted to Adopted Schools and given free board, lodging education, training and sports kit and also provided medical care and insurance cover. 1014 children are presently under training in 54 adopted schools.

Sports Project Development Area Scheme (SPDA)

This scheme covers schools children of the age group of 8 to 14 years. The